Sawa Chidori Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Sawa Chidori'

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6

Description:

This elegant variety presents creamy pink to green new leaves with darker, rich green veins; summer foliage becomes greener over time, then turns orange-red in fall; an ideal selection for gardens, containers, or bonsai



Sawa Chidori Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Sawa Chidori Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Sawa Chidori Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. It features subtle corymbs of red flowers at the ends of the branches in early spring before the leaves. It has attractive light green foliage with dark green veins and tinges of creamy white which emerges pink in spring. The lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding cherry red in the fall. The rough brick red bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Sawa Chidori Japanese Maple is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned in summer after the leaves have fully developed, as it may 'bleed' sap if pruned in late winter or early spring. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Sawa Chidori Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Sawa Chidori Japanese Maple will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This shrub does best in a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in partial shade. Keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Sawa Chidori Japanese Maple makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.